



Hon. Mr. Carey.

SKETCH

OF THE

FORMATION OF THE . . .

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

AT SHERBROOKE AND LENNOXVILLE

PREPARED BY THE

HON. J. G. ROBERTSON

1890.

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MEMORANDUM OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SHERBROOKE AND LENNOXVILLE,

For its Annual Meeting in Sherbrooke, Jan. 17, 1890.

NOTE.—This sketch was prepared by request of the Pastor, as the early Records of the Church had been mislaid. Subsequently the Record was found, and used in the correction of names, etc.

A meeting was held in the house of Mr. Samuel Brooks, in Sherbrooke, on Dec. 25th, 1835, to consider the expediency and propriety of organizing a Congregational Church for Sherbrooke and Lennoxville, presided over by Rev. A. J. Parker, pastor of the church in Shipton, now Danville.

The following candidates were admitted by letter from other sister churches and met the 27th Dec., with those who were admitted on profession, and organized the church.

Admitted by letter from sister churches.

Bro. Alba Brown	}	from Stanstead Church
Sister Lucy Brown, his wife		
Bro. Horace Barber		
Sister Sarah Barber, his wife		
" Elizabeth (Mrs. Samuel) Brooks		from Stanstead Church
Bro. Joseph S. Walton		from Church Montpelier, Vt.
Sister Esther, W. Walton his wife	"	" Castleton, "
" Sarah Kenaston	"	" Granby, "
" Clarissa Bryant	"	" Montpelier, "
Bro. Samuel Norriss	}	" " Plymouth, N. H.
Sister Anna M. Norriss his wife		
" Eliza Eldridge	"	" Newbury, Vt.
Bro. Aaron Mallory	}	Woodbury, Vt.
Sister Huldah Mallory, his wife		
Bro. Calvin Hamnum		Lunenburg, "
" William Brooks		Peacham, "
Sister Mabel Powell		Charlotte, "

And on profession

Samuel Mallory	Charles Brooks
Elijah Powell	Ralph Rankin
David Mitchell	Mrs. Eunice Mitchell
William Mitchell	Miss Martha Mitchell
Mrs. Howe	Mrs. Harriet Ball

These mentioned appeared at Lennoxville, Dec. 27th, 1835, and gave their assent to the Articles of Faith and Cov-

enant and were declared constituted a Congregational Church, and each of the 27 persons in full communion therewith.

(Signed) A. J. PARKER,
Pastor of the Cong'l Church, Shipton.

The first Deacons chosen were Bros. Alba Brown, David Mitchell and Sam'l S. Norriss, and soon after other additions were made to the church by letter and profession during the following years.

So far as known all those who originally united with the church in 1835, with the exception of Messrs William Brooks, Charles Brooks (now of Chicago) and William Mitchell of Ascot, have left the church on earth to join the church of Christ above, and their works do follow them.

The first Pastor of the church was the Rev. James Robertson, who moved from Derby, Vt., in May 1836, and continued pastor until his death in September, 1861, thus closing a ministry of upwards of sixty years' faithful preaching of the gospel of Christ, in Scotland, in Derby (nearly 4 years) and the rest of the time over this church preaching regularly every Sunday in Sherbrooke and Lennoxville and holding a Bible class on the Sunday evenings, which was well attended by the members of the church and others till his death, and was much prized by all.

He was succeeded in the Pastorate by Rev. Archibald Duff, D. D., who was pastor for about 18 years, and died in London, England, soon after leaving Sherbrooke. He was a faithful, earnest, devoted and useful pastor and much esteemed by all with whom he came in contact.

He was succeeded as Pastor by the Rev. B. B. Sherman, who was pastor for about 3 years, Dr. Duff remaining most of the time as Pastor *emeritas*. Next followed Rev. E. R. Brainerd who was pastor for about 2½ years. The two last mentioned left Sherbrooke for the United States.

The Rev. Dr. Barnes came to Sherbrooke as Pastor in June, 1887, and is now acting as such in connection with this church.

I may mention amongst those who took an active interest in the erection of the *first* Congregational church building in Sherbrooke on the site now occupied by the

Presbyterian church, and who contributed to the support of the gospel for many years :

The late Mr. Samuel Brooks, M. P., for the old county of Sherbrooke, though nominally connected with the Methodist Church in Stanstead, still was a constant attendant and communicated with this Church and was, I think, the most liberal contributor to the support of the gospel and all religious and benevolent enterprises we had amongst us during his lifetime. He died in Montreal, March, 1849, while attending to his parliamentary duties, and was buried in the Union cemetery in this city, the first person who was interred in that burying ground, which is now thickly peopled by those who have since died among us.

Mrs. Samuel Brooks was noted for her kindness and hospitality to clergymen coming to Sherbrooke or passing through in the discharge of their duties, and was universally respected and deeply regretted at her death by all who knew her

The late John Fraser, Commissioner of the British Am. Land Company for many years, came from Scotland a Presbyterian, but who constantly attended and communicated with this church and contributed to the support of the Pastor so long as he remained in Sherbrooke.

Mrs. Galt, the mother of Sir Alex. T. Galt, regularly attended this church and communicated with it until her death. Her son Sir Alexander, contributing liberally towards all religious objects until his removal to Montreal.

(The late L. C. Ball, Levi A. Edgell, Joseph Bailey, John Low, William R. Willard, C. F. H. Goodhue, Thomas Gordon, and some still alive, Hiram Moe, G. F. Bowen, A. G. Woodward and many others although not members of the church, and some of them not regular attendants, contributed to the erection of the first church building. Most of those mentioned attended church and contributed regularly in aid of the pastor's salary and other religious objects for a long time).

I need not say that the church members contributed towards the erection of the first church building according to their ability, this they did when money was much scarcer

than it now is and involved more sacrifice to pay subscriptions than at present.

Mr. William Brooks was noted for being a liberal contributor towards the erection of both church edifices and to the support of the gospel and all charitable and religious efforts. A constant attendant at all religious services and hospitable in the extreme to all who needed hospitality. In fact, he kept open house for ministers and the agents of the various religious organizations who had occasion to visit Sherbrooke while he remained here.

His brother, Charles Brooks, exercised a similar hospitality in Lennoxville. The weekly prayer meeting in connection with the church was held in Mr. Samuel Brooks' House till his death, and then was held in Mr. Wm. Brooks' dining-room till the vestry was ready for use.

The Church has from time to time since its formation received many valuable additions to its ranks from sister churches. I allude to a few of the more prominent with whom I was best acquainted.

Deacon William Arms and family removed from Stanstead to Sherbrooke in the year 1838. Mr. Arms was here most of the time for a year previous to moving his family, having business relations with Capt. Alba Brown which required his presence here. Mr. Arms, who had been a deacon of the Congregational Church in Stanstead, on his coming permanently to reside here was chosen as one of the deacons of this church, which office he filled till his death in 1853. He was also superintendent of the Sunday School for the same period. These offices he filled with great zeal and efficiency. Was a constant attendant at prayer meetings and all religious services connected with the church, and was much esteemed by his fellow church members and the general public.

Mrs. William Arms was noted for her hospitality and a quiet efficiency in the discharge of her various duties, making no noise about what she did but always ready for every good word and work.

Deacon John S. Sanborn came to Sherbrooke about the year 1843 from Hanover, N. H., after completing his univers-

ity studies, and for some years taught our academy, and then entered the law profession and practiced at the Bar of this District till he was on Mr. Justice Short's death made Judge of the Superior Court of this District.

On Mr Sanborn coming to Sherbrooke he at once took up his position as a member of our church, a strong advocate of temperance, a constant attendant at prayer meetings and the Pastor's Bible Class, and always ready to advocate the cause of temperance and every other good work. He represented Sherbrooke County for several terms in the Legislature of the then late Province of Canada, and was then appointed to the Senate in 1867, on the confederation of the provinces, where his influence could always be relied on for the rights of justice, morality and good wholesome legislation. He acted as deacon of this church for many years and finally resigned the office to the regret of his brethren in the church.

He kept up his interest in all religious and benevolent enterprises until his leaving Sherbrooke in 1874, having been appointed as one of the judges of the Queen's Bench in Montreal. His departure was felt to be a loss to the church and to the community where he was much respected and beloved. Mr. Sanborn died in Montreal in 1877 and was buried there.

Another of the founders of the church who was for many years a deacon of the church and who died in 1875, was the late Mr. Joseph S. Walton, editor and publisher for many years of the Sherbrooke *Gazette*.

Mr. Walton, to those intimately acquainted with him, was a man of rare merit, sterling honesty and whose influence was always to be found on the right side on all moral questions which came before the public for discussion; a consistent temperance man and advocate of temperance principles, always at prayer meetings and other religious services from time to time and ready to do his part as occasion required.

It may be said of Mr. Walton and Mr Sanborn that they were always ready for every good work, especially ready to assist the poor and unfortunate in a quiet, unostentatious

way, of which the general public knew nothing.

It was an understanding between Mr. Walton, Mr. Sanborn and another that either might relieve the poor and afflicted and call on the others to assist if the assistance granted was considered too much for one to give, and this plan was carried on for years and in every case the others responded cheerfully to the demands thus made upon them, and this lasted till Mr. Sanborn's departure from Sherbrooke and Mr. Walton's death. This plan insured examination into every case presented for aid, and I have no hesitation in saying that many were assisted whom misfortune had overtaken and several young people sent to school whose parents were too poor or unwilling to pay the necessary tuition fees. I hope some good was thus accomplished. I allude to these facts thinking possibly it may excite others to like efforts to do good who are connected with this church.

Another deacon of the church for many years I may allude to, Mr. Peter McLellan, of Orford, who died a few years ago. He came to Sherbrooke in 1837. He was in Scotland a Presbyterian and did not unite with this church for some years after coming to this country. He performed his duties as deacon in a quiet, modest way, was constant in his attendance at church services and at prayer meetings when the roads and weather would permit. A man of good sound judgment and general intelligence and well versed in the scriptures, which he made a constant study.

The late Deacon Joshua Foss and family came from Eaton to Sherbrooke in 1871, and he died in 1881. Mr. Foss, in connection with Deacon Samuel A. Hurd, were for many years the right hand men of the late Rev. E. J. Sherrill, pastor of the Eaton church. Both took an active interest in the Sunday School in Eaton and in every good work while they resided there. Mr. Foss was unable to take much active work in Sherbrooke owing to the infirmities of age, but he did what he could. His estimable wife for so many years, died here a few months ago. Both were buried in the Eaton cemetery, where they had friends and relatives laid to rest.

Deacon Samuel A. Hurd and family came from Eaton to Sherbrooke in 1874, but he lived amongst us only a few

years, having died in 1877, and soon after his wife followed him to the grave ; both were efficient and useful members of the church in Eaton and in Sherbrooke and were much esteemed and respected in both places.

Deacon Samuel Tuck and family came to Sherbrooke in 1850 and he has been a deacon of this church for many years and still acts as such. He, for a long time, taught in the Sunday School and is a constant attendant at prayer meetings and other services and a liberal contributor towards every good enterprise.

Deacon H. Hubbard came from Eaton to Sherbrooke in 1863 with his family. He has been deacon of the church for about 20 years and for many years was superintendent in our Sunday School and treasurer of the church for a long time which office he still efficiently fills. A constant attendant at prayer meetings and all other services when his public duties as School Inspector permit.

Deacon John McNicol came to Sherbrooke from Eaton with his family in 1865 and was chosen Deacon in 1885. He was chosen deacon several years before but declined to serve at that time.

Another addition to our society from Eaton was the late Thomas S. Morey who came to Sherbrooke in 1871 with his family to reside permanently amongst us. Mr. Morey, although not a member of the church, was a constant attendant at Sunday services and a liberal contributor to the support of the pastor in Eaton and in Sherbrooke, and also to all our missionary and religious objects during his life time. He was a warm personal friend of mine from the time he came to Canada many years ago, and before he went to live in Eaton, and I personally with others regretted much his death. He died, I think, in 1886, and was buried in our cemetery.

His son, Mr S. F. Morey, united with the church some years since and was chosen one of the Deacons in 1885. His efforts on behalf of the improvement of our *young men* in the city, and of his efforts in establishing the Reading

room and Library as well as his liberal support to all religious objects in connection with this church are well known and I am sure appreciated by the members of the church and the general public.

Of these last four mentioned brethern it would be out of place to speak more at present, they are still amongst us and well known to you all and I feel confident, esteemed for their work's sake. I am sure they, if consulted, would prefer my saying no more as to their services in the church.

(Quite a number of those I have alluded to as connected with the church, as members thereof or as members of the society, have left some of their children in Sherbrooke members of this or other churches following I trust in the footsteps of their predecessors. Will they make the places and positions of their fathers and mothers *good* to the church and community? I might have referred to the other members of the church who have passed to the "better land" but have confined myself as much as possible to those respecting whom I at the time supposed the church records to be lost, or who hold or have held positions in the church).

To some it may appear a useless proceeding to lay before the church the short sketch presented, but I was unwilling that those who had founded our church, and done so much amidst many embarrassments and sacrifices to establish our cause should be unknown to the present church members or forgotten, and thinking that perhaps the record of our predecessors in church work, might by their example stimulate or encourage the present members of our church and society to more earnest and increased and persevering efforts in our Masters work.

At all events, I have briefly, and imperfectly it may be, done what I felt to be a pleasant duty, in honor of those who were friends of my respected father and of my own, as in a few more years, without some record of this kind, those who are now past the middle age of life will have slept with their fathers and no chance thereafter of any memorial of our departed friends being compiled for the information of their successors in church work in Sherbrooke.

Yours Fraternally,

J. G. ROBERTSON.

Sherbrooke, January 14th, 1890.

